

CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS OF
CANADA.*

IN this compact and legal-looking volume Mr. Houston has collected the documents which he considers "contain the constitution of Canada and illustrate its historical development." If he might legitimately have included more, he has omitted none that was essential to the plan of his work. Believing that "the true line of development of the Canadian constitution takes us back, not to the French régime in Canada, but to the colonial governments of what are now called the United States," he has included no French documents except the articles of capitulation of Quebec and Montreal. Mr. Houston has made no attempt to interpret the documents. He neither theorizes nor dogmatizes. His, he tells us, "was the humbler but infinitely more useful task, to see that the texts were as correct as possible, and to give in the form of notes such historical information and references as would lighten the labours of the student without supplying him with ready-made opinions." While the mere collection in one volume of these documents would itself be a service of no inconsiderable value, the usefulness of the collection is immensely enhanced by the learning and excellent judgment exhibited throughout in the annotations. These notes do not, as is too often the case, explain the obvious or display mere unprofitable erudition. They direct the student and investigator to sources of information not very generally known and in many cases only discoverable without such guides as these, after long and wearisome research. They do not bulk very largely in the volume, but they indicate unmistakably that Mr. Houston has the true instinct for historical investigation and the skill to present the results of his researches clearly and effectively, yet with commendable brevity. The time and labour and patience he must have bestowed on the work can be adequately appreciated by those only who have had some personal experience in similar undertakings.

The first document in the collection is a portion of the Treaty of Utrecht, 1713, by which Nova Scotia and other French possessions in North America were ceded to Great Britain. This is followed by the documents relating to Representative Assemblies in the Maritime Provinces; the Articles of Capitulation of Quebec and Montreal; the Treaty of Paris, 1763; the Royal Proclamation thereunder, creating the Province of Quebec, and the Commission to Governor Murray; Lord Mansfield's judgment in *Campbell vs. Hall*; the Quebec Act, 1774, and Supplementary Acts; the Constitutional Act, 1791, and Supplementary Acts; Union Act, 1840, and Supplementary Acts; British North America Act, 1867, and Supplementary Acts; Colonial Habeas Corpus Act, 1862; Colonial Laws Validity Act, 1865; and the Commissions and Royal Instructions to Governors-General Viscount Monck, Earl Dufferin and the Marquis of Lorne. The Appendices are numerous and contain documents of scarcely less interest and importance than those already mentioned. They comprise extracts from treaties relating to Canada prior to and including 1783; documents authoritatively defining Canadian boundaries; treaty stipulations respecting fisheries since 1783; Upper Canadian Acts introducing English law and trial by jury; documents relative to the establishment of Responsible Government in Canada; the Quebec Conference Resolutions, 1864; and United States constitutional documents. The importance of inserting the last mentioned documents in a work intended for academic use is obvious. The Appendices do not differ typographically or in arrangement from the rest of the book, except that the notes, instead of being collected at the end of each document or series of documents to which they refer, are printed at the foot of each page, a plan which we should like to see adopted throughout the work when a second edition is called for.

All these documents, so useful and necessary, not only to students of political and legal science in universities and law schools, whose needs Mr. Houston had primarily in view, but to lawyers, journalists, publicists, jurists and statesmen, must hitherto have been sought in many different places and at great personal inconvenience by anyone who had occasion to consult them; and the great value of the service rendered by Mr. Houston both as editor and annotator will be specially appreciated by the several classes of readers we have just referred to.

We must not close this imperfect notice without calling the reader's attention to Mr. Houston's excellent and suggestive Introduction. It fills some ten pages, and its purpose is "to explain the author's views on the teaching of history in general, and of Canadian constitutional history in particular." He vigorously condemns, as antiquated and ineffective, the method universally in vogue in our own college days, of teaching history by means of formal *ex cathedra* lectures, and warmly advocates the "Seminary" system, now so generally adopted in progressive educational institutions, the great merit of which is "that it facilitates the use of the inductive method, which the lecture system absolutely precludes." After expressing with great clearness his views on the teaching of history, Mr. Houston proceeds to point out that "in some respects the constitutional history of Canada is better adapted for academic use than the constitu-

tional history of either England or the United States, which is equivalent to saying that it surpasses in that respect the constitutional history of any other country wheresoever." He shows also that "a similarly unique interest attaches to the study of jurisprudence and of international law in connection with Canadian history." These points are fully illustrated; and the Introduction concludes with some practical suggestions as to the manner in which academically the documents in the volume may be most advantageously used. R.

LE PETIT SAVANT.

"Only a babe," we say,
"With tiny, powerless hands and useless feet,"
Nor know that at our heart strings beat
These hands, and stay
Our steps along life's blistering street
And rule the way.

"Only a babe," we say,
"With gurgling sounds and vain attempts at speech,"
Not knowing that the babe could teach
Our lips a lay
Learned from the angels she might reach
So far away.

"Only a babe," we say,
In kindly tolerance of baby minds,
Not knowing that the baby finds
In angel play
A hole in Heaven's window-blinds,
And sees the Day.

SOPHIE M. ALMON HENSLEY.

ART NOTES.

THE progress in the different branches of study in art, evidenced at the recent pupils' exhibit at Moulton Ladies' College, was very marked and was much appreciated by the visitors. There were some excellent studies of landscape, evidencing out of door training and study of nature. Specimens of painting on china included Crown Derby, Doulton, Worcester, Old English, Royal Dresden, etc., all of which styles were adequately represented. The pen and ink sketches were unusually fine and reflected great credit to Mrs. Dignum, who has charge of it. We are glad to observe the thorough and comprehensive character of the art training which is being furnished at this College.

GREAT praise is accorded to Sargent's "Carmencita" in the Royal Academy exhibit in London. A critic says it is no exaggeration to say that the one picture which stands out from the rest, startling in its vigour and animation and cleverness, is Mr. Sargent's "La Carmencita." To turn to it from the lifeless canvases which surround it, is like reading a song by Swinburne after a course of average magazine verse, a page by Pater after columns of New Journalese. The portrait overflows with actuality. Even those who may not like it must admit that the brilliant yellow satin gown holds inside it a living human body, and is not a mere stuffed bag like the suit of clothes Prof. Herkomer calls Sir Sydney Waterlow immediately opposite. The work has its faults. The arms are somewhat wooden; that Mr. Sargent can paint much better hands he proves in a delightful portrait of a lady in a red-shot silk dress, hanging in one of the near rooms. But its faults might be still greater, and it would yet hold its own, not only in the Royal Academy, but in any gallery of the world, as the painting of an artist of style and distinction.

MISS MARY GRANT, the well-known sculptor, has just unveiled a memorial tablet of singular beauty to be placed over the tomb of the youthful lady Anne Hadoway in the old parish church of Wootton, where the Dukes of Buckingham and their families have been buried for generations. This group of figures, in Carrara marble, represents the fair young mother taking her last look on earth at her little ones who, awed and wondering, surround her couch, ere she follows to realms above the infant who is being borne away overhead on angel wings, and whose birth has cost her own life. Nothing more beautiful has been seen among the studios this year. Miss Grant is well known in America, and one of her latest busts is that of W. K. Vanderbilt, whose thoughtful and refined countenance suggests anything rather than the usual association connected with the name. The possession of millions is not supposed to cast a pensive shade upon the brow, but Miss Grant's charming head is undeniably pensive.—*L. B. Walford, in New York Critic.*

In another column will be found the report of the thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Bank of Toronto. The showing is of a very satisfactory character. The president, in submitting the report in a clear and business-like manner, referred to the condition of the country, and though, for various reasons which he specified, agricultural, industrial and commercial pursuits had not been quite so prosperous as in some former years, the affairs of the Bank of Toronto were such as to give full confidence to its shareholders that their interests were prudently and intelligently cared for. The balance sheet is highly satisfactory.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE closing exercises at Moulton Ladies' College consisted of music, essays and presentation of diplomas. The music, under the direction of Miss Smart, showed a high standard. The Misses Chipman, Love, Wilson, Smith, F. Coleman, Porter, McDermid and F. Johnson took part. Essays were read by the members of the graduating class, Miss Jessie Dowd, Miss Emma Dryden and Miss Mabel L. Gurney. The Rev. Elmore Harris, M.A., delivered a suitable address to the graduating class.

THE piano recital given by Mr. W. H. Sherwood at the Association Hall on Saturday evening last was one of those musical treats which the Conservatory of Music occasionally provides for the music lovers of Toronto. This is not the first time that we have had the pleasure of listening to the great masters at the hands of this renowned pianist, and each recital reveals new excellence. The grace and elegance of his technique were specially noticeable in his playing of the Second Minuet, composed by Edgar H. Sherwood, while the feeling displayed in the well known C Sharp Minor Mazurka of Chopin left nothing to be desired. Mr. Sherwood's exceptional ability does not lie merely in the ease and grace of his performance, both force and impassioned interpretation and expression were brought out strongly in Beethoven's Sonata, in E flat, and in Liszt's Second Hungarian Rhapsody. The recital was diversified with vocal numbers by the pupils of Signor D'Auria, which were well rendered.

THE Misses Josephine and Peggie Webling gave a private reading recently at the house of a well-known Toronto *litterateur*. It was a more than ordinary treat to hear the varied and finished recitals of these cultivated and talented English ladies. The programme was sufficiently varied and difficult to enable the privileged auditors to fairly estimate the ability and skill of the readers. It is not often that we have the pleasure of spending a more delightful evening. The genius of Shakespeare, of Browning, and other literary giants found charming and appropriate interpreters; and the soft, sweet English tones of the readers were heard to great advantage in the limited space of a drawing room. It is not to be wondered at that John Ruskin and James Russell Lowell should have written in terms of warm praise of the readings and recitations of the Misses Webling. We trust that the gifts and graces which have afforded such delight to the most cultivated of English and American art and literary critics may find warm and hearty appreciation in Canada.

TORONTO COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

THE announcement of the annual concert of the Toronto College of Music filled the Pavilion to overflowing, on last Thursday evening, with an enthusiastic audience. Mr. F. H. Torrington, the director of the College, is to be congratulated upon the great success which has crowned the efforts of himself and his excellent staff. The class of music in which the students are being trained cannot fail to cultivate the musical taste and elevate the musical standard throughout the country at large. The good work thus begun by Mr. Torrington will, no doubt, live and bring forth its fruits in future years. The programme was a representative one. The Mozart Sonata for two pianos by Misses Broughton and McKay, and Chopin Concerto by Miss Sullivan, both with orchestral accompaniment, were exceptionally well rendered. The Ensemble department of College work was well represented in the Fest and Tannhauser overtures. The solo playing by Misses Boulthbee, Benson, Ryan, Gaylord and Landell was of a high order. In the vocal department we were particularly pleased with the efforts of Miss Scrimger and our already popular tenor, Mr. Bird. The other vocalists were Misses Bonsall, McFall, Mason, Mrs. J. C. Smith, Messrs. Parr and Lugsden, all of whom performed their various parts with credit. The Hon. G. W. Ross, in well chosen words, made reference to the work being done by the College, and its possible future through its affiliation with the University of Toronto, and with grace presented the College Gold Medal for 1891 to Miss Fannie Sullivan.

SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH CONCERT.

THIS concert, postponed from Tuesday last week on account of the rain-storm, was again threatened with unpropitious weather on Monday evening; but after the sharp shower between six and seven, the sky cleared and a fairly large audience gathered in St. Paul's Hall, Power Street. The threatening weather and the locality of the hall no doubt prevented many who were warmly interested in the success of the concert from attending. The programme consisted of some seventeen numbers, admirably well selected and on the whole very creditably rendered. The members of the chorus, drawn from the choirs of the principal Catholic churches in the city, were trained by Mr. G. E. Brame, who wielded the baton on the occasion with the lightness and precision of a master. The choruses on the programme were the "Gypsy Chorus" from *Preciosa*, the "Soldiers' Chorus" from *Faust*, and the "Anvil Chorus" from *Il Trovatore*; and the manner in which they were rendered led many to express the wish that Prof. Brame may soon have another and more favourable opportunity of displaying his capabilities as conductor. The soloists acquitted themselves very creditably, and several were compelled to submit to an *encore*. Mr. Fax afforded much amusement by his rendering of one or two comic songs; and Miss Dunn's effective recitations were

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